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PROGRESS OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Charter Membership. As these words are going into type, the membership list is growing at an average rate of eighteen per day. If this rate is maintained until April first, the charter membership will have reached 850. Unfortunately this March issue cannot be mailed until after April first (due to conditions beyond our control, which conditions also delayed the January and February issues and cannot be entirely overcome before June). Nevertheless, the printers' forms will be closed about March 25, and hence it will be impossible to announce the final results. Suffice it to say, the figures are already phenomenal and indicate that the interest in the new Association is neither sporadic nor half-hearted.

No adequate analysis of the membership has been compiled as yet, but a hasty glance shows: (1) that every state in the Union, the District of Columbia, Canada, England, and China are represented; (2) that New York is leading with 89 members, Illinois is second with 74, Ohio third with 69, and Massachusetts fourth with 57; (3) that not only those who signed the "Call" and attended the Columbus meeting, but large numbers of others have cast their influence with the new organization; and (4) that the membership is thoroughly representative, including many who are distinguished for research as well as those who are distinguished as teachers in both universities and colleges, including also many in normal schools and the larger high schools, and finally, engineers, actuaries and others not in the teaching profession.

An address list of the charter members, that is, those who joined before April first, will be prepared as soon as practicable and distributed to all members of the Association.

Institutional Membership. The growth of the institutional membership list has been as rapid as could have been expected. The idea is new and it requires time for the advantages to be realized and the arrangements to be made. Moreover, as there is no initiation fee in the case of institutions, there was not the same incentive, as in the case of individuals, to come in before a certain date. It is most gratifying, therefore, to note that some forty institutions have already become members and that the number is gradually increasing.

Lest some confusion may still exist with respect to whether an institutional membership includes its mathematical staff as individual members, the following paragraph on this point is reprinted from the February issue (also because a misprint as it there appeared may have added to the confusion).

A correspondent asks whether a delegate sent by an institutional member to a meeting of the Association would be counted as an individual member. This is clearly not contemplated by the constitution. *Individual members are those who support the Association by the payment of the individual dues,* and only the names of such persons will appear in the address list of individual members, to be printed later. There will also be printed a list of institutional members, but this list will not be accompanied by the names of delegates since these will vary from time to time. The delegates actually in attendance at any meeting will be given with the report of the meeting. An individual member may, of course, be delegated by an institution to represent it at any meeting. The two copies of the Monthly to be sent to institutional members will, in all cases, be mailed directly to the library of the institution, and not to individual members of the faculty.

Sections of the Association. Evidence of activity in many directions indicates that the opportunities offered through the sections of the Association will be appreciated and that, in time, these will be widely developed. Therefore, the committee of the Council having this matter in charge has lost no time in formulating the regulations under which such sections may be organized. These have been agreed upon as follows:

REGULATIONS FOR SECTIONS OF THE MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA.

1. Sections of this Association are governed by the provisions of the constitution of the Association, articles V, 1 and V, 2, and also by the following administrative rules, adopted by a committee of the Council and confirmed by the Council.

2. The membership of any section shall be limited to members of the national organization, and members of the national organization residing within the district covered by the section shall be *eo ipso* members of the section. This shall not operate, however, to prevent other persons from attending meetings of such sections, with the approval of the section.

3. A report of all meetings held during any year shall be sent to the secretary of the national association by the secretary of each section. The failure to present a report for two consecutive years shall be equivalent to notice that the section has been discontinued, and it shall then be omitted from the list of sections after due notice.

4. It is presumed that each section will have at least one meeting during each calendar year. Failure to have a meeting during each of two consecutive calendar years shall be held to be equivalent to notice of discontinuance of the section with the action provided for in the preceding paragraph.

5. The Constitution provides that expenses of sections shall not be payable by the parent organization. This is held to mean that the payment of any expense by the parent organization is optional with it. For the current year and until further action is taken by the Council, the national association will publish gratis the program of each meeting of any section and will furnish a sufficient number of copies for use before and during the meeting. All other expenses shall be borne by the section.

6. Any section may request the payment of a small supplementary amount to cover its expenses from the members of the Association in its district, but the non-payment of such an assessment shall not operate to change the standing of a member in the national association.

The Committee of the Council having this matter in charge, consisting of K. D. SWARTZEL, ALEXANDER ZIWET, and E. R. HEDRICK, Chairman, was appointed at the meeting of the Council in Columbus and was authorized to act with power in framing regulations for sections of the Association and in acting on petitions for the creation of such sections. See the January issue of the MONTHLY, page 6.

The first body to make application for admission as a section was in Kansas. A meeting was held in the autumn of 1915 at which the Kansas teachers of collegiate mathematics organized and appointed Professor U. G. Mitchell, of the University of Kansas, as their delegate to present their application at the Columbus meeting as soon as the national Association should give them an opportunity. They held their first meeting as a Section of the Mathematical Association of America at the University of Kansas on March 18, 1916. The program included (1) a report of the Columbus meeting by Professor U. G. Mitchell, (2) a paper on "Geometry for College Juniors and Seniors" by Professor J. W. Van der Vries of the University of Kansas, and (3) a discussion led by Professor Mary W. Newson of Washburn College.

It is not too much to hope that this is the beginning of a long series of section meetings to be held in every part of the country and that in this way the whole membership of the Association may come into direct contact with its activities.

Correspondence. Out of the mass of correspondence, an occasional letter is too good to withhold when we can secure permission to make it public. The following are of this character:

TO SECRETARY CAIRNS:

Please find enclosed dues and application for membership in what promises to be the "livest" mathematical association on the continent.

I believe some law of action at a distance will bring the benefits to us who are at aphelion and I hope that when the association is in proper working order a way will be found of accelerating our progress towards some center of energy and enthusiasm.

Yours sincerely,
NORMAN ANNING.

CHILLIWACK,
BRITISH COLUMBIA.

TO PRESIDENT HEDRICK:

My attention has recently been called to the fact that a new mathematical society has been formed under the title "The Mathematical Association of America," and I write to congratulate you and your colleagues on your successful inauguration of this new manifestation of interest in and capacity for mathematical work in America. When one looks back, as I am able to, a full half century over the development of mathematical studies in America, and when one reflects on the admirable progress of the past quarter of a century, he is stimulated to entertain hopes, if not glorious visions, for the future.

Although I am poor from membership in numerous societies and associations, it looks as if it will be necessary to succumb to the "one more" suggested by a circular just received; but whether it will turn out to be practicable or not, I desire to throw up my hat in admiration for the fine progressive spirit you and your colleagues in the Middle West are showing in these matters. In the future, therefore, when I am spending the summer on Sirius, or perhaps some hotter star, I shall hope to look in on such activities and help if practicable to encourage the workers who may be expected during the next hundred years to achieve still greater progress than has been attained during the past hundred years.

In the meantime, I have sent on my membership dues and subscription and am prepared to give you the most cordial support. There is great need for such an intermediate journal as you and your colleagues have evolved. This must help greatly to promote and diffuse interest and activity in mathematical science.

With all best wishes for the new organization, for the American Mathematical Monthly, and with personal regards,

Faithfully yours,

R. S. WOODWARD.

CARNEGIE INSTITUTION
OF WASHINGTON, D. C.

TO PRESIDENT HEDRICK:

Two independent but converging tendencies in high school education have created a situation in which it seems possible for the new MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA to render a considerable service both to the general public and to the welfare of school mathematics. On the one hand there is a widespread movement for the adoption of the six-year high school program; on the other hand, there is a more or less prevalent sentiment that geometry, and, still more, algebra, are not planned and taught as they should be for the majority of high school boys and girls—who are of course not to enter college. More or less typical of such sentiment in its less rational forms are such drastic expressions—scarcely to be termed criticism—as, for example, the invocation of blessings on the girl who rejects algebra. Typical in a different sense are the confident dicta of the more psychologically minded, who assail cherished notions as to "mental discipline" by assuring the mathematicians that they are entangled in a "faulty and outworn psychology." Confronted with this bold accusation from one in authority, the simple-hearted teacher may easily plead guilty, or at least *nolo contendere*.

In the profession itself there are those who believe in "fusion," or in "composite" courses, those who feel that time is misspent in the seventh and eighth grades on arithmetical technicalities, those who lament the various limitations of our high school mathematics in comparison with that of secondary schools in other progressive nations.

For all of these reasons it seems to the writer opportune, not to say urgent, that the mathematical curriculum of the high school and of the seventh and eighth grades should be promptly and thoroughly revised—by mathematicians.

Other agencies are working on other subjects and if mathematicians do not undertake this task there is danger that it will be rashly attempted by the unskilled. Committees of the New England and Middle States Associations of mathematical teachers have been working on related problems for several years. For best results it is important that a national joint committee should be organized representing these and other bodies, unified by the support of the MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA. Will the Association do its part?

Yours very sincerely,

H. W. TYLER.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE
OF TECHNOLOGY, March 15, 1916.

NOTES AND NEWS.

EDITED BY D. A. ROTHROCK, Indiana University.

Assistant Professor J. M. DAVIS has been promoted to an associate professorship of mathematics at the University of Kentucky.

MISS A. D. LEWIS, of Mt. Holyoke College, has been appointed professor of mathematics at the Kentucky College for Women.

At Rockford College, Ill., DR. BESSIE I. MILLER has been appointed professor of mathematics and physics.

DR. H. L. AGARD has been promoted to an assistant professorship of mathematics at Williams College.

At the State College of Washington, DR. E. C. COLPITTS has been promoted from an assistant professorship to an associate professorship of mathematics.

Longmans, Green and Company announce "A text-book on practical mathematics," by H. LESLIE MANN.

The publishing house of B. G. Teubner in Leipzig has in press "Partial differential equations of mathematical physics," by A. G. WEBSTER, of Clark University.

In the University of Washington Publications in mathematical and physical sciences for August, 1915, appears a paper by E. T. BELL, on "An arithmetical theory of certain numerical functions."

The Macmillan Company has recently issued a new edition of an "Elementary synthetic geometry of the point, line and circle," and an "Elementary synthetic solid geometry," by N. F. DUPUIS.